

Lent 5
THE
WAY
OF
THE
CROSS

9:30 CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Sunday • March 22 • 2026

Lent 5 THE WAY OF THE CROSS

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please stand in body or spirit when you see an *

Greetings

Plymouth Chimes

Prelude

Johannah Cox, clarinet

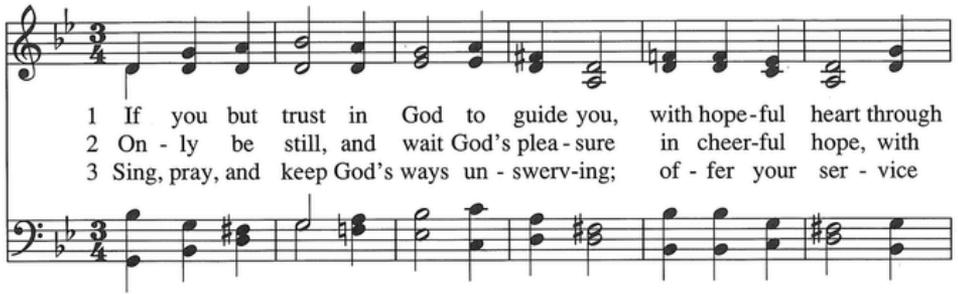
Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Joel Raney

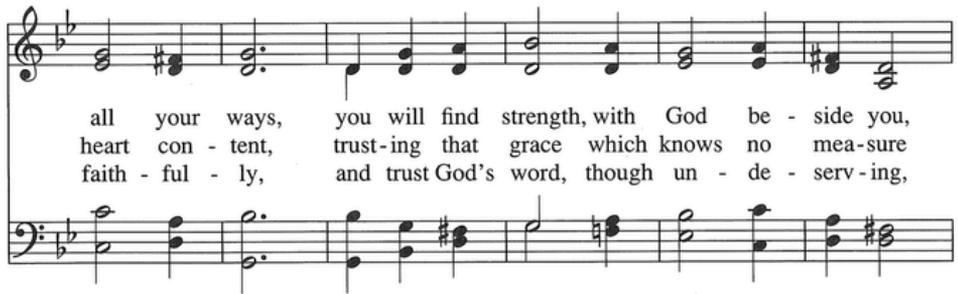
*Call to Worship

- Leader Claim us, O God, from complacency,
which is not even aware that it is sinning;
- People **From the pride, which cannot admit that it is wrong;**
- Leader From the self-will,
which can see nothing but its own way;
- People **From the self-righteousness,
which can see no flaw within itself;**
- Leader From the evasion, which always puts the blame
on someone or something else;
- People **From the heart so hardened that it cannot repent.**
- All **Claim us, O God, so that we may be redeemed
by your grace.**

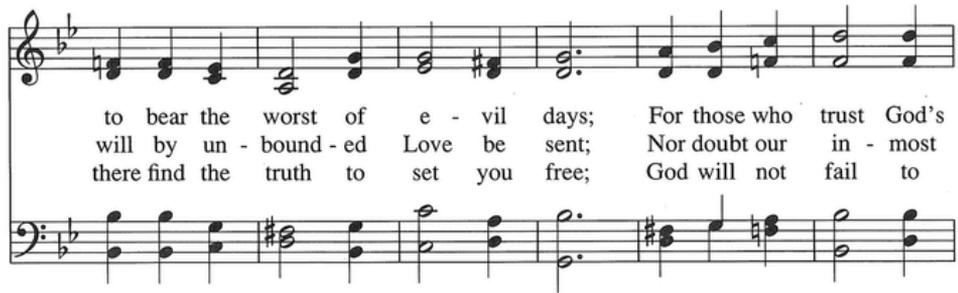
*If You But Trust in God to Guide You



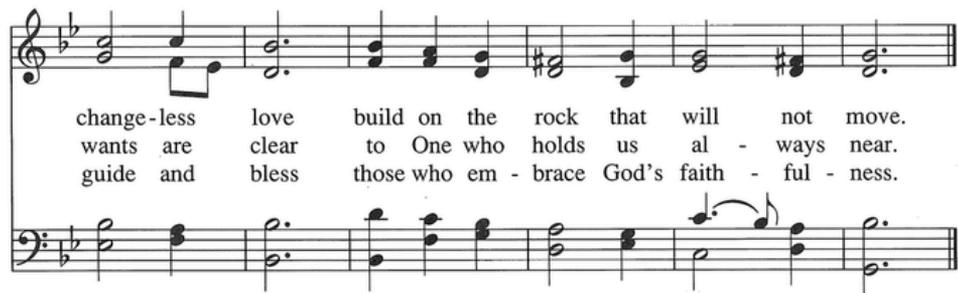
1 If you but trust in God to guide you, with hope-ful heart through
2 On - ly be still, and wait God's plea - sure in cheer-ful hope, with
3 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv-ing; of - fer your ser - vice



all your ways, you will find strength, with God be - side you,
heart con - tent, trust-ing that grace which knows no mea - sure
faith - ful - ly, and trust God's word, though un - de - serv-ing,



to bear the worst of e - vil days; For those who trust God's
will by un - bound - ed Love be sent; Nor doubt our in - most
there find the truth to set you free; God will not fail to



change-less love build on the rock that will not move.
wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways near.
guide and bless those who em - brace God's faith - ful - ness.

*Prayer of Confession *(Please, join in reading.)*

**God of love, we come before you with hearts broken and weary.
We confess that we have nurtured despair
and given it safe harbor to grow within us.
We have indulged in disdain for our enemies and neighbors.
We have not loved you with our whole hearts.
Grant that being truly repentant,
We may be truly forgiven.
May your grace cover the distance
between us and all you have promised,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Assurance of God's Love

*Song of Response

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days vs. 1 & 3

(Found in your pew hymnal.)

81

Sacrament of Baptism

Lachlan James Seybold Meigs

Parents: Erin Seybold and Ramsey Meigs

*Pledge of the Congregation

**With God's help, we will so order our lives
after the example of Christ, that this child of God,
surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in faith
and strengthened in the way of Jesus. Amen.**

Children attending Sunday School go to their designated line up spot after the **Baptism**. Teachers and guides will be holding signs to help you locate where your child should line up!

*Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

408

(Found in your pew hymnal.)

verse 1 & 2: all in harmony

verse 3: high voices

verse 4: low voices

verse 5 & 6: all

408 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

GERMANY LM

Attr. Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

Frank Mason North, 1905; alt.

1. Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, Where sound the
 2. In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, On shad - owed
 3. From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, From hu - man
 4. The cup of wa - ter given for Thee Still holds the

cries of race and clan, A - bove the noise of
 thresh - olds fraught with fears, From paths where hide the
 grief and bur - dened toil, From fam - ished souls, from
 fresh - ness of Thy grace; Yet long these mul - ti -

self - ish strife, We hear Thy voice, O Son of Man.
 lures of greed, We catch the vi - sion of Thy tears.
 sor - row's stress, Thy heart has nev - er known re - coil.
 tudes to see The sweet com - pas - sion of Thy face.

5. O Master, from the mountainside,
 Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
 Among these restless throngs abide,
 O tread the city's streets again;
6. Till all the world shall learn Thy love,
 And follow where Thy feet have trod;
 Till glorious from Thy heaven above
 Shall come the city of our God.

Scripture Reading

John 19:1-16a
Pew Bible NT pg. 113

Reader The Word of God for the people of God.
All **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Rev. Michael Brecke

Call to Offering

Offertory

Give Me Jesus

Larry Flemming

Chancel Choir

*Doxology *(Please, join in singing.)*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, you heavenly host;
praise God, and Christ and Holy Ghost.**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Plymouth Covenant *(Please, join in reading.)*

**In the love of truth and in the spirit of Jesus,
we unite for the worship of God,
and the service of all.**

**We seek to know the will of God
and to walk in God's ways,
made known or to be made known to us;
to love one another;
to proclaim the Gospel to all the world;
to work and pray for the progress of knowledge,
the promotion of justice, the reign of peace,
and the realization of our shared humanity.**

**And we look with faith for the triumph of
righteousness and the gift of life eternal. Amen.**

Call to Prayer *(When prompted, join in bold text and singing.)*

Leader The Lord be with you,
People **and also with you.**

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "Stay with me; re - main here with me; watch and pray. Watch and pray." The first system covers the first two phrases, and the second system covers the last two phrases. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords that support the vocal melody.

Text and Music: Jacques Berthier, ©1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net#A715821.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.**

(Sing again, Stay with me...)

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

363

SOJOURNER Irregular

African-American spiritual

African-American spiritual

1. I want Je - sus to walk with me; (Walk with me)
 2. In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 3. When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me; When

I want Je - sus to walk with me; (Walk with me)
 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

All a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 When my heart is al - most break - ing,
 When my head is bowed in sor - row,

1.2.3. Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. (with me)

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

363

(Found in your pew hymnal.)

*Benediction

Congregational Response *(People seated and singing.)*

**God be with you till we meet again.
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.
Amen.**

Plymouth Chimes

Postlude

Johannah Cox, clarinet
Judy Kettle, piano

Give Me Jesus
Stan Pethel

Today's Service Participants

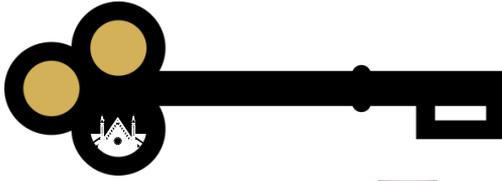
Preaching: Rev. Michael Brecke
Liturgist: Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean
Minister of Music & Fine Arts: Kim Manz
Lay Reader: Val McGhee
Welcome Team Leaders: Chris and Ken Johnson
Sound, Lights, and Radio: Gretchen Meyer
Cameras and Video: Jeremy Winfrey



Welcome

New to Plymouth?

Please, let us know!



Enter In

Important Update!

At the congregational meeting on February 22, Plymouth voted to adapt the existing chancel for accessibility. The next big challenge is to figure out how. Good accessibility design lines up with our weekly commitment that “wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.” But there are space constraints and existing structures to consider. So where do we look for guidance?

Here are two starting points:

1. **Expert advice**– Throughout this project we have followed the advice of experts – for the organ and casework, engineering, acoustics, and more. Experts have training and experience, imagination and problem-solving skills.

Good news! We are blessed with an in-house expert of our own. Plymouth member, **Dr. Dorothy (Dot) Nary**, is a nationally-recognized disability expert, researcher, and advocate. Dot has graciously lent her expertise to the Accessibility Subcommittee, which includes two other members with extensive personal and professional disability experience.



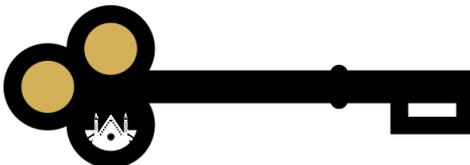
Email Plymouth Moderator,
Jenny O'Brien

2. **Your Stories** – Do you or someone you love have mobility challenges? How do barriers affect your worship experience? What solutions do you prefer? Council would love to hear from you! Please email your comments to me at **tjbrobrien@gmail.com**.

At the Council meeting on **March 24**, the Accessibility Subcommittee will present their findings and recommendations. Council will consider these, and congregational input, to determine the direction for chancel accessibility.

Getting this right means the heart of our worship space will be welcoming to the full participation of all. What a great thing to shout from the rooftops!

Jenny O'Brien,
Plymouth Moderator





Lenten Fellowship Forum

Hard times are easier to bear together. Come reflect on what the life of faith means in a time of great change and uncertainty.

We don't promise any simple answers. *All are welcome.*

Between services in the Heritage Room.



The next in-person Taize service for the 2026 season is this Friday, March 27 • 6pm at St. John the Evangelist Church

Easter Lilies

Pastors' Emergency Fund 2026
at Plymouth Congregational Church

**Last Day
to order!**



Online
Order
Form



Trans Day of Visibility

March 27

Join Unity of Lawrence for a screening of **The Gender Reveal Party**, a powerful, funny, and deeply human solo performance by Jay Pryor.

 **Screening at 7pm**

 **Doors open at 6:30pm**

 **Unity of Lawrence, 901 Madeline Lane, Lawrence, KS**

 Snacks before the show and at intermission, provided by **Plymouth Congregational Church!**

Stay after the screening for a live talkback with Jay Pryor. The Lawrence Trans Coalition will be present with a table and available to answer questions and share resources. Visibility matters. Stories matter. All are welcome.





CHILI COOK OFF

THE BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS TRIP TEAM WILL BE HOSTING OUR ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF FUNDRAISER ON APRIL 10 AT 6PM AT PLYMOUTH IN THE MAYFLOWER ROOM

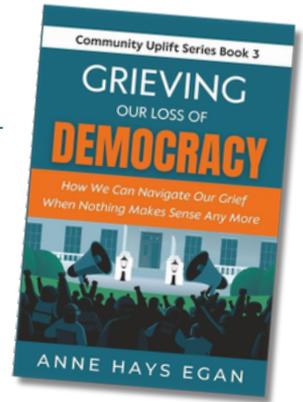
We need Chili Cooks! You must fill out the form to participate as a cook in the Chili Cook Off competition. Sign up by **April 6**.

If you are not able to cook, save the date to attend the Chili Cook Off and support our youth service-learning trip. May the best Chili Cook win!

This year our high school youth and mentors are raising funds for a trip to Bentonville, Arkansas • July 5-10 • **Focusing on Economic Justice**

Grieving our Loss of Democracy Discussion

April 26 & May 3
BETWEEN SERVICES



Watching and reading the news and scrolling on social media can lead to sadness, fear, anger and helplessness. We might even be grieving. But wait, there is always hope at the intersection of our current world crises and our faith!

We can seek to grieve prophetically, seeing our world, even at its darkest, with the spirit and energy of the Hebrew prophets and the resurrected Christ.

We are called to make a difference and contribute to the greater good.

We'll discuss the book, **Grieving our Loss of Democracy** by Anne Hays Egan, with **Rev. Marc Giedinghagen** leading our discussion.

Marc is a retired parish minister, chaplain and Clinical Pastoral Educator.

Join us **April 26 and May 3** in the Heritage Room between worship services.

HOLY WEEK

AT PLYMOUTH CHURCH

Palm Sunday Services

Sunday, March 29 • 9:30 & 11:30am

Our Holy Week pilgrimage begins.

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 2 • 7:30pm

The journey to the cross intensifies.

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 3 • 7:30pm

Dramatic presentation of the Passion
Narrative using still life characters
and music.

EASTER SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH CHURCH

Sunday, April 5 • 9:30 & 11:30am

Our journey culminates in the
celebration of resurrection life!

Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed!

Sunday School and Children's Choir

Rooms for Sunday School

- Preschool
- K-1st Grade
- 2nd-3rd Grade
- 4th-5th Grade

Room 106 S
Room 205 S
Room 210 S
Room 206 S

Nursery is in Room 105 S • A nursing/quiet room is in 104 S

Rooms for Choir

- Cherub Choir (Pre K-1st Grade)
- Carol Choir (2nd-5th Grade)
- Chapel Choir (6th-12th Grade)

Room 205 S
Chapel
Chapel

Chapel Choir meets at 10:30am

Worship Bags and Coloring Pages can be found in the Narthex. Children are dismissed to Sunday School after the Children's Celebration (approximately at 9:45am) and go to Children's Choir afterwards from 10:30-11am.

Additional Sunday School and Children's Choir information can be found on the bulletin board at the South Entrance.

Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman, Senior Pastor

seniorpastor@plymouthlawrence.com

Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean, Associate Pastor

associatepastor@plymouthlawrence.com

Kim Manz, Minister of Music and Fine Arts

music@plymouthlawrence.com

Colton Pasquale, Director of Faith Formation

christianed@plymouthlawrence.com

Rev. Michael Brecke, Interim Pastor of Care & Welcome

welcome@plymouthlawrence.com

Jenny O'Brien, Moderator (lay leader)

tjbrobrien@gmail.com



**Plymouth
Congregational
Church**

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**An Open & Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ**



SAFE SPACE